

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4683
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
MIGRATION OF SHEPHERDS
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that annually a large number of shepherds, locally known as Bakarwals move from their homes, across the mountains with their flocks of sheep and goats;
- (b) if so, whether Pakistani trained militants often disguise as `Bakarwals` manage to slip into the Indian territory from the other side of the international border; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to counter these intruders?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Yes Sir, it is a fact that shepherds and bakarwals migrate from their homes during summer season and move to highland pastures alongwith their flocks of sheep and goats, within our territory.

(b) & (c): There have been instances of militants taking shelter with shepherds and bakarwals. As per some inputs militants operating in the upper reaches/Jungles take shelter/food and disguise themselves as bakarwalas while infiltrating to our side.

The steps taken to check this practice include:

- (1) Intensified patrolling of security forces in Border.
- (2) Establishment of security pickets at vulnerable places and sensitive areas.
- (3) Conduct of casual nakas and surprise checking over these pastures.
- (4) Shepherds/Bakarwals have been issued identity cards for proper identification.